

when he opened fire on them with twenty-four guns. (This was open warfare). It was dusk and they did not find out the full extent of the attack until next morning. Then over 1,000 dead were counted. The wounded had been removed during the night. It was estimated that there probably were 7,000 in the column. The attack was broken completely.

The French had only assigned a very small area to this Division, but after this effort it was increased and soon this Division was holding a sector three times as big as had been held by the French Division. A small piece of wood had balked the French for days and they had had a Division nearly broken up in attacking it, without any results. They had sent for siege guns and were waiting for them to be brought up before making another attack on the woods. The C. O. of the Third Division requested that the wood be included in his sector, which the French very gladly acceded to. The Staff Officer of the Third Division had studied the map thoroughly and found that a sunken road extended along the left flank of the wood and offered a good opportunity to flank the wood. Plans were made and while the woods were being shelled, a battalion of the Third Division went out this road and got in behind the wood. At a given signal the fire from our lines ceased and the battalion charged with fixed bayonets. They cleaned out the wood, captured 150 machine guns, took about 250 prisoners, and in the report given, left no one to carry news of the disaster back to the Germans. Our line was moved up to include the woods, and the French the next morning were astonished at what we had accomplished and wanted to know how it was done. This news aroused the enthusiasm of the officers and made me feel more optimistic.

*June 19, 1918, Wednesday.* Colonel Ferguson left me this morning to go to Corps Headquarters at Fruges. This leaves me as Division Engineer and Regimental Commander. The Colonel has been made Corps Engineer.

After he left I went out to Sanghen to my regimental headquarters. Found all my men comfortably settled, and the work going on nicely. Headquarters are at Sanghen; First Battalion at Alembon; Second Battalion at Herbinghem; Engineer Train at Hocquinghen. I took dinner at Headquarters mess, went over the work with the Adjutant, and returned to Division Headquarters at Nordausques about 2 p. m.